



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING



THOMAS D. WATKINS, JR.  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

## Fully Qualified Teachers of Health Education

*Revised March 3, 2005*

**Michigan law and policy requires that districts employ teachers of health education who are qualified to teach health education.** Although federal law (*No Child Left Behind*) does not specifically address the qualifications needed to teach health education, state legislation and state board policy clearly address the issue. The requirements of state law supercede the lack of specificity in the federal legislation.

State Board policy further supports the intention of the Michigan legislation. “All health education teachers should possess the necessary qualifications, skills, and training essential to perform their duties well.” (*Michigan State Board of Education Policy on Comprehensive School Health Education, June 2004.*)

### Required by State Law

See the sections of the *Revised School Code* that are contained in the Michigan Compiled Laws under MCL 380.1169, 380.1527, and 380.1531.

- According to state law and state board policy, a secondary teacher is required to have an endorsement on his or her teaching certificate in the subject areas taught. A teacher who provides instruction in health education, including HIV prevention education, at the middle school or high school level, is required to have the appropriate endorsement on his or her certificate. The endorsements which permit teachers to teach health include the *MA* (health), *MX* (health, physical education, recreation and dance), or *KH* (family and consumer science) endorsements. This requirement applies to all middle school teachers who teach health under a secondary teaching certificate.
- Any teacher of HIV prevention education is required to have received specific training in HIV prevention education as it relates to young people. This training is available through institutions of higher education and Michigan’s regional school health coordinating sites.

### Recommended by the Michigan Department of Education

The following are strongly recommended, in keeping with the State Board of Education’s goal to “attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
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students,” and its recognition of the demonstrated influence of health on learning. See the Michigan State Board of Education’s *Policy on Comprehensive School Health Education* (June 2004), and the Department’s *Professional Development Vision and Standards* (August 2003).

- Middle school and elementary teachers holding a K-8 All Subjects elementary certificate may continue, under the law, to teach health education. However, to ensure that students learn appropriate material, and that schools are not in violation of other state laws, these teachers should receive specific training in effective health education.
- All health education teachers, regardless of years of service, should receive administrative support to participate in ongoing professional development activities *specifically related to health education*. These professional development activities should be research-based and theory-driven, focused on student learning, and relevant to the individual teacher. Professional development activities should provide teachers with opportunities to practice strategies that influence students’ *health skills, behaviors, and attitudes*.
- Research shows that teachers who receive curriculum-specific training in a model health education curriculum have the most impact on student health behaviors. All health education teachers, K-12, need opportunities to become trained in specific, research-based, and theory-driven curricula, such as the *Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education*, which is provided by Michigan’s regional Comprehensive School Health Coordinators.



For more information about health education in Michigan public schools, please contact the Coordinated School Health and Safety Programs Unit at (517) 241-4284, or see the website at [www.michigan.gov/mde](http://www.michigan.gov/mde). Click on K-12 Curriculum, then on Health Education.

*This summary should not be used to replace statute. For the exact language of Michigan Compiled Laws, go to [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org). Concerns regarding interpretation should be directed to legal counsel.*